


Tom Melius/R3/FWS/DOI
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To FW3 All Employees R3
cc
bcc
Subject Plains and Prairie Pothole LCC

History:  This message has been forwarded.

A Message from Regional Directors Tom Melius and Steve Guertin:

Regions 3 and 6 are working together to establish a Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) for the Plains and Prairie Pothole geographic area. Our goal is to prepare a preliminary operations plan for this LCC during the next two months. In order to ensure you are all aware of what is happening we plan to send occasional emails, such as this one, and post information on these websites:

Region 3 climate change website: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/climate/>
Region 6 SHC intranet site: <https://intranet.fws.gov/region6/shc>

Background: Developing the LCC Framework

A critical step in our strategic approach to address a changing climate involves the creation of LCCs. LCCs will be formal, science and management partnerships between the Service, U.S. Geological Survey, other federal agencies, states, tribes, NGOs, universities, and others to increase applied conservation science capacity in support of fish and wildlife management within specific landscapes. A key role for LCCs will be to help managers identify strategies to help them adapt fish and wildlife management actions in a changing climate. The tools developed by the LCCs will allow Service offices, and our many partners, to implement on-the-ground actions in the most effective locations to meet their goals.

Each region has identified a priority LCC for fiscal year 2010. This year, Region 3 has selected the **Plains and Prairie Pothole LCC** as its priority. In following years, Regions will establish additional LCCs until all field stations and geographic areas are included in an LCC. A map of this LCC is available here: http://www.fws.gov/midwest/climate/documents/PPP_LCC_map.pdf
The first thing you will notice about this LCC is that a significant portion is not in Region 3, in fact, much of it is not even in the U.S. While this certainly makes it more challenging to manage, it also makes it clear that we are truly going to focus on the landscape, and what is best for the fish and wildlife within that landscape; not what is best for some political, governmental, or administrative framework.

Next Steps: Define Form, Function, Role and Capacity Needed to Implement LCCs

In the next week, project leaders in the Plains and Prairie Potholes LCC will be invited to participate in scoping sessions designed to begin collecting ecological and scientific baseline data and information needs. Similar scoping meetings will be held the following week with external partners.

The information collected from these internal and external scoping meeting will provide the foundation for developing the form, function, role, capacity and organization of the Plains and

Prairie Pothole LCC; and will likely be used as the foundation of other LCCs.

Two weeks ago a group of Region 3 and Region 6 staff met to begin substantial discussions on the implementation of this LCC. As part of that meeting, a cross-regional team was established to take the information gathered during these initial meetings, along with information from the upcoming scoping meetings, to help create the foundation of the LCC.

This team will be developing this basic framework to present at the upcoming October Directorate meeting and will continue to refine and develop the framework before presenting its final recommendations by Nov. 30, 2009.

The Plains and Prairie Pothole LCC Development Team consists of the following staff: Team Coordinator Region 3 Science Advisor Teresa Woods. Region 3 staff: Craig Czarnecki (ES), Pat Heglund (NWRS), Jim Leach (NWRS), Rex Johnson (MB) and Aaron Woldt (FR).

Region 6 staff: Casey Stemler (MB), Kevin Willis (NWRS), Neil Neimuth (NWRS), Steve Krentz (FR), Randy Matchett (NWRS), and Wayne Nelson-Statny (ES); Region 6 Regional Directorate Team leads: Rick Coleman (ARD/NWRS) and Michael Thabault (ARD/ES).

Again, we want to stress that the formation of an LCC is not intended to result in additional bureaucratic layers or the reallocation of funding. LCCs will develop tools to allow Service offices, and our partners, to implement on-the-ground actions in the most effective locations to meet both strategic and local goals.

Continual Needs: Stay Engaged, Avoid Inefficiency, Keep What Works and Cut What Doesn't Work

We want to thank all of you who have helped us get to this point in our strategic response to climate change, and the implementation of LCCs. We now look forward to expanding the level of engagement to include more staff and partners.

There has been a long and healthy tradition of competition and partnership between our two Regions. As we move forward with this and other LCCs – nearly all of which are multi-regional – we expect to set the example for cross-regional engagement, participation, and implementation.

We both look forward to establishing the Plains and Prairie Pothole LCC as an example of how diverse ideas, programs, partners and landscapes can be brought together under the umbrella of solid science to benefit the people and resources of America.

Thank you and stay engaged!

Tom Melius and Steve Guertin